

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In October 12, 1993 the City's of Rockingham and Hamlet contracted with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to perform a Thoroughfare Planning Study for the Area. This new study would update a previous plan adopted in December 1979.

To begin the study, base year data and future socio-economic projections were developed by the Rockingham and Hamlet Planning Departments and NCDOT. This data was used to develop and simulate traffic for the base year 1994 and design year of 2020.

After calibrating the base year network, the study focused on design year travel forecast and deficiencies. The work included testing the future alignment of the US 74 Bypass (TIP #: R-512) and the US 1 Bypass (TIP #: R-2501). It also included the proposed I-73 Corridor.

Several informal meetings were conducted with the representatives of both municipalities throughout the study to discuss transportation issues as well as the local ideas for relieving the traffic problems within the planning area. Six meetings were conducted with local planning staffs, elected officials, and the public including two public hearings as a part of the planning process.

In December 1994 and August 1995, two Planning Board meetings were conducted with Hamlet and Rockingham to discuss the thoroughfare planning process. The meetings allowed each community to address local traffic problems and needs.

Additional Planning Board meetings were held in February and March, 1996 with the Cities of Hamlet and Rockingham. The topics of discussion focused primarily on capacity problems and recommendations for improvements. Other items of discussion included the comparison of alternative corridor alignments for the US 1 Bypass. At the time, the US 1 project had undergone an environmental assessment as part of the project development stage of the TIP process.

On April 3, 1996 the Hamlet City Council conducted a Public Hearing to include additional public comment with regard to the Thoroughfare Plan. The discussion focused on the proposed Hamlet one way pair (see Chapter V for purpose and need assessment). After a lengthy discussion, the City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Thoroughfare Plan.

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Rockingham City Council on May 14, 1996. The meeting allowed for additional public comments on the Thoroughfare Plan. As a result, the Plan was unanimously endorsed.

The Statewide Planning Branch, NCDOT would like to thank Mr. James Armstrong, Rockingham City Planner, Mr. Lee Matthews, Hamlet City Manager, and Mrs. Lisa Vierling, Hamlet City Clerk for their assistance toward the completion of this study.